

Media Release



October 6, 2011

Romsey bore to ensure town's water supply

Romsey will soon have a more secure local drinking water supply, after Western Water began work on the town's borefield project.

Western Water is building an \$820,000 bore and pipeline that will transfer extra water to the town's drinking water supply in times of low rainfall. The project is expected to be complete by late 2012.

"During the recent drought we were forced to pump water from the Melbourne supply to Romsey, to make sure the town had enough drinking water," Western Water's Managing Director, John Wilkinson, says.

"Pumping water from Melbourne is very expensive and results in high carbon emissions.

"This project will ensure that, if drought conditions return, we will have an alternative local water supply if Kerrie Reservoir gets too low."

Work began in September on a pipeline to carry water from the new bore site, in Romsey's north-west, to Romsey's water filtration plant on Glenfern Rd.

When needed, bore water will be blended with water from Kerrie Reservoir at the plant, filtered and treated, before it is supplied to homes and businesses in the town.

"Over the next few months, we will start work on the bore itself, and on upgrading the water filtration plant to ensure the highest quality drinking water possible," Mr Wilkinson says.

"With Romsey's population growing over the next 20 years, we need to make sure there is enough water available to meet demand."

Western Water has already received approval from Southern Rural Water and the Department of Sustainability and Environment to install the bore and pump water from it.

"Before applying for a bore licence from Southern Rural Water we carried out extensive monitoring of groundwater in the area," Mr Wilkinson says.

"This monitoring showed the bore water is suitable for drinking, and the bore will not have an adverse effect on groundwater in the region," he says.

"Throughout the process, we have consulted with local residents who may be affected, especially those who have bores on their properties, and with stakeholders such as Macedon Ranges Shire Council and Melbourne Water.

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About Western Water

Western Water is one of Victoria's 13 regional urban water corporations. We provide water, recycled water and sewerage services to over 53,000 properties and 134,810 people in an area of 3,000 square kilometres. Our region extends from Lancefield in the north to Melton and Rockbank in the south and from Myrning in the west to Bulla in the east. We incorporate parts of Hume City Council and Melton, Moorabool and Macedon Ranges Shire Councils.

Media contacts

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“We have also investigated the potential effects on flora and fauna, cultural heritage and waterways in the area, and found no significant issues.”

Under the licence, Western Water will be required to carry out detailed monitoring of the bore’s operation and report regularly to Southern Rural Water on groundwater levels.

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PICTURE OPPORTUNITY: Please contact Media Advisor Kylie Smith on 0488 226 681 to arrange photographs of work on Western Water’s Romsey bore pipeline.

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